

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 SAB-01 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 042424

O R 051949Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9245

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

OSD/ISA

JCS

ODUSA

USINFO WASHDC

USUN 415

USIA WASHDC

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SAO PAULO PASS TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER

USINFO FOR IPS/ILA

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: BUNKER/TACK JOINT STATEMENT - FIRST EDITORIAL REACTION

REF: (A) PANAMA 6483, (B) PANAMA 6491

SUMMARY: FIRST EDITORIALS TO ADDRESS JOINT BUNKER-TACK
STATEMENT -- SIGNIFICANTLY ALL IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS--
APPEARED IN DECEMBER 4 EDITIONS OF MATUTINO, CRITICA, AND
EL PANAMA AMERICA. WHILE APPROACHING IMPORTANCE OF
STATEMENT FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES, ALL THREE COMMENTARIES
HAVE IN COMMON A POSITIVE BUT RESTRAINED TONE AND ATTEMPT
NEITHER TO EXPAND ON TEXT OF STATEMENT NOR TO SPECULATE ON
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THE SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S CONVERSATIONS.

THERE HAS BEEN NO ADDITIONAL COMMENT IN DECEMBER 5 MORNING PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LEAD-OFF EDITORIAL COMMENT, THE MORNING DAILY MATUTINO FOCUSED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF JOINT STATEMENT FOR THE TORRIJOS "REVOLUTION." UNDERLINING THE POSITIVE THRUST OF STATEMENT, MATUTINO ATTRIBUTED IT TO THE PRESTIGE, POLICIES AND LEADERSHIP OF THE "REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT AND TOUTED IT AS "ONE MORE TRIUMPH OVER THE ANTI-PATRIOTS." FOR ITS PART, MID-DAY CRITICA TERMED COMMUNIQUE OF "UNQUESTIONABLE TRANSCENDENCY" AND NOTED THAT IT REFLECTS THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME A TRUE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE TOWARD THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE" SEEMS TO PERMEATE THE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. WHAT IS CALLED FOR NOW, ACCORDING TO CRITICA IN NEITHER UNDUE "EUPHORIA NOR PESSIMISM" BUT RATHER CONFIDENCE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORDS "PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SO HOPEFUL." WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVERSATIONS, CRITICA "UNDERSTANDS" THE NATURAL DIPLOMATIC RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS DETAILS WHILE TALKS ARE UNDERWAY AND ASSURES ITS READERS THAT, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, THE COUNTRY WILL BE CONSULTED.

2. SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC, THE EVENING EL PANAMA AMERICA NOTES THAT, AFTER TEN YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE BUNKER/TACK STATEMENT APPEARS TO SIGNAL THAT WE ARE NOW ENTERING A STAGE IN WHICH THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF THE U S-PANAMANIAN RELATIONSHIP WILL BE DISCUSSED. LISTING SEVEN "CAUSES OF CONFLICT" THE RESOLUTION OF WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, HAS SINCE 1964 BEEN THWARTED BY U S "INTRANSIGENCE, INCOMPREHENSION AND NEGATIVE ATTITUDE", THE EDITORIAL ASSERTS THAT ANY TREATY NOT SUCCESSFULLY ELIMINATING THESE CAUSES WILL BE "REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE WHO, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD.

3. COMMENTS: EDITORIAL COMMENT, WHICH INTERESTINGLY HAS BEEN LIMITED SO FAR TO THE THREE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT PAPERS, HAS FULLY RESPECTED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIVACY OF AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S FIRST ROUND OF TALKS. THIS, TOGETHER WITH GOP FAILURE TO TALK TO PRESS -- IN SPITE OF INTENSE PRESSURE TO DO SO -- ABOUT SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE PANAMANIAN COMMITMENT TO PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS.
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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